



SBA Information Notice

TO: All Employees

CONTROL NO.: 5000-1060

SUBJECT: Tentative Expansion Schedule for
Small/Rural Lender Advantage

EFFECTIVE: 6/26/2008

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is continuing to introduce a new 7(a) loan initiative designed to meet the unique loan processing needs of small community/rural-based lenders, many of which do not make SBA loans or make very few SBA loans. Small/Rural Lender Advantage is part of a broader SBA initiative to promote the economic development of local communities, particularly those facing the challenges of population loss, economic dislocation, high unemployment, etc. It is a component of the Agency's 7(a) loan guaranty program, and it is designed to encourage small community/rural lenders to partner with SBA by simplifying and streamlining the Agency's application process and procedures, particularly for smaller SBA loans.

SBA introduced Small/Rural Lender Advantage on January 8, 2008, in its Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY). Following discussions with lenders and SBA field staff, the Agency further streamlined the concept and published revised program guidance on May 12, 2008, under SBA Procedural Notice 5000-1056. SBA is now moving to extend Small/Rural Lender Advantage to additional regions of the country, but must do so in close coordination with the addition of staff and resources in the Loan Guaranty Processing Center. While the logistical uncertainties of adding and training additional LGPC staff complicate SBA's scheduling for extending this initiative nationally, the Agency has developed the following tentative schedule, which could change. However, SBA district and regional personnel will be kept apprised of any schedule changes.

May 15, 2008	SBA's Region VII (Completed)	(KS, NE, MO, IA)
June 1, 2008	SBA's Region VI (Completed)	(TX, AR, LA, OK, NM)
June 23, 2008	SBA's Region V (Completed)	(IL, IN, OH, MI, WI, MN)
Aug 1, 2008	SBA's Regions I & IV	(New England, Southeast)
Sept 1, 2008	SBA's Regions II & III	(Mid-Atlantic)
Sept 15, 2008	SBA's Regions IX & X	(Pacific Coast, AL, HI, GU)

Questions regarding this notice may be forwarded to gail.hepler@sba.gov or charles.thomas@sba.gov.

Grady B. Hedgespeth
Director, Office of
Financial Assistance

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